

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANA

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AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196616

E.O. ,1652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YE

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS - YAR AND NORTH KOREA ISSUE

REFS: (A) STATE 181798, (B) SANA 2615 (NOTAL)

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER CALLED IN YAR AMBASSADOR AL-MUTWAKKIL AUGUST 6 TO DISCUSS KOREA AND PUERTO RICO ISSUES. AFTER DRAWING ON POINTS CONTAINED IN REF (A), SOBER SAID WE WELCOMED NEWS THAT YAR PERM REP HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO CO-SPONSOR OR VOTE FOR COMMUNIST RESOLUTION (REF B). WE HOPED AMBASSADOR WOULD INFORM HIS
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GOVERNMENT THAT US IS NOT OPPOSED TO MOVEMENT ON KOREA

QUESTION BUT ONLY TO ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT TEND TO UNDO PEACE.

2. IN RESPONSE AMBASSADOR SAID HE TOO WELCOMED NEWS OF AL-ASNAJ STATEMENT (WHICH HE HAD OBVIOUSLY NOT BEEN INFORMED OF). HE REGARDED IT AS "GOOD FIRST STEP", ESPECIALLY AFTER "MISUNDERSTANDING" OF LAST YEAR. HE SAID SOUTH KOREA SHOULD NOW SEIZE INITIATIVE BY OFFERING AID AND PARTICIPATING IN SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS IN YAR. HE DID NOT RULE OUT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BUT OPINED THAT ROK SHOULD FIRST SEEK TO ESTABLISH CONSULATE IN SANA "AS YAR HAD DONE IN EAST GERMANY". AFTER ALL, HE SAID, NORTH KOREA, WITH WHICH YAR HAD DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, WAS PROVIDING CON-

SIDERABLE AID AND YAR DID NOT WISH TO JEOPARDIZE THAT.

3. AMBASSADOR PREDICTED THAT HAMDI'S TRIP TO CHINA, POSTPONEMENT OF WHICH HAD LED TO CANCELLATION OF VISIT TO PYONGYANG, WOULD BE RESCHEDULED AFTER SEPTEMBER. WHEN HAMDI DOES GO, HE MAY STOP IN NORTH KOREA, AT WHICH TIME IT WOULD BE "EMBARRASSING" FOR YAR TO HAVE POSITION ON KOREA ISSUE AT VARIANCE WITH PYONGYANG'S. COMMENT: CLEAR IMPLICATION OF AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS WAS THAT ROK SHOULD STRIKE WHILE IRON WAS HOT, LEST YAR CHANGE ITS MIND.

3. THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO DISCUSSION ON PUERTO RICO ISSUE. AMBASSADOR STATED IT WAS "COMPLETELY DIFFERENT" AND US POSITION CAUSED YAR "NO PROBLEMS".

4. AMBASSADOR PROMISED TO REPORT DISCUSSION TO BOTH YAR FONMIN AND HAMDI DIRECTLY. HE FELT SURE THIS TIME NORTH YEMENIS AT UN WOULD STICK TO THEIR INSTRUCTIONS. HABIB

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